

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 2.

REMARKS

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of the Claim for Priority and receipt of the priority document.

Information Disclosure Statement

While Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 11, 2005, Applicants do not understand why certain of the Japanese references on Form PTO-1449 have been crossed out. Copies of these references were filed with parent application Serial No. 09/775,575 filed February 5, 2001 and therefore should be considered by the Examiner in this continuation application.

Specification

The specification has been amended to correct certain typographical or other inadvertent errors. No new matter has been added by the amendments to the specification.

Drawings

Applicants have noted certain minor corrections that need to be made in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings. Being filed concurrently herewith are replacement sheets in which the spelling of "Answer" has been corrected in Figs. 1 and 2. It is requested that the replacement sheets be approved.

Claim Rejection

Claim 22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Mikurak, U.S. Patent No. 6,671,818. Claims 23 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mikurak and further in view of Bean, U.S.

Patent No. 5,524,147. Claims 24 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mikurak in view of the article by Chabrow.

For the reasons set forth hereafter, it is submitted that the claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

Patentability of the Amended Claims

The claims have been amended to emphasize the following significant aspects of the present invention:

(1) The database has combined information registered therein for each of apparatuses or components composing the power plant. The combined information is information made or obtained by making, in advance, a cause of an abnormality phenomena which has occurred in each apparatus or component and a countermeasure to the cause to correspond to each other and combining the cause and the countermeasure; and

(2) The retrieving system comprises a retrieved result outputting function of retrieving, based on the database, countermeasure information matched with the retrieving conditions inputted by the retrieving condition input function, and outputting, irrespective of difference in causes of the occurred abnormality phenomena when a plurality of countermeasure information matched with the retrieving conditions exists, the plurality of countermeasure information.

According to the present invention, even in a case where it is considered that a plurality of candidates of a cause of a phenomena which has occurred in the power plant exist, a plurality of countermeasure information is outputted irrespective of difference in causes of the occurred abnormality phenomena, so that it is possible for

a user to get several alternatives as a countermeasure information to the abnormality.

As discussed hereafter, the cited references do not teach or render obvious the above-noted aspects of the present invention.

The Mikurak reference does disclose a system for or a method of automatically preparing answer information in response to an inquiry relating to power plant techniques from a user of a power plant. Since Mikurak has no system for automatically preparing answer information relating to power plant techniques from a user of a power plant, there is no disclosure of "the database has combined answer information registered therein for each of apparatuses or components comprising the power plant," which combined answer information is "information obtained by making, in advance, a cause of an abnormality phenomena which has occurred in each apparatus or component and a countermeasure to the cause to correspond to each other and combining the cause and the countermeasure".

Further, Mikurak does not teach how to retrieve and output countermeasure information for an abnormality phenomena which has occurred in a power plant, and does not provide a retrieving system which comprises a retrieved result means for retrieving, based on the database, countermeasure information matched with the retrieving conditions inputted by the retrieving condition input function means, and outputting, irrespective of difference in causes of the occurred abnormality phenomena when a plurality of countermeasure information matched with the retrieving conditions exists, the plurality of countermeasure information.

Therefore, claims 22 and 25 are not anticipated by Mikurak.

The Bean and Chabrow references are used for rejection of claims 23 and 26, and claim 24 and 27, in combination with Mikurak, respectively.

Claims 23 and 24 are dependent from claim 22, and claims 26 and 27 are dependent from claim 25. Claims 22 and 25 each are patentable for the above-mentioned reasons, so that dependent claims 23, 24, 26 and 27 are also patentable.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. NIP-216-02).

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachments:

Replacement Figs. 1 and 2